

REMARKS

Claims 6-9 and 20-23 are pending in this application.

Upon entry of the above Amendment, claims 6-9 and 20-23 will be pending. These Claims were indicated allowable in the Office Action dated March 18, 2004.

ENTRY OF THE AMENDMENT

The above Amendment should be entered because it cancels finally rejected claims 2-5 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein leaving claims 6-9 and 20-23 pending. The remaining claims are indicated allowable in the last Office Action dated March 18, 2004. Accordingly, this Amendment on its face places this application in condition for allowance.

FOREIGN PRIORITY

The indication that the foreign priority documents were received and placed in the file is noted.

CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Elliot A. Goldberg (Reg. No. 33,347) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

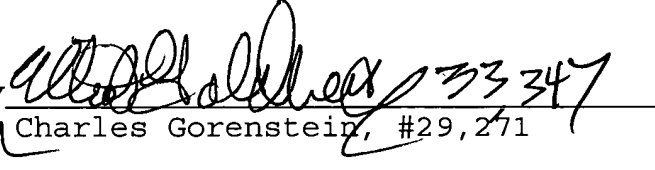
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By

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Attachment(s)